



Maine Farmer.
HOMAN & BADGER, Publishers.
B. L. BOARDMAN, Agricultural Editor.
Our Home, our Country and our Brother Man.

Holstein Cows.

Since an increased interest in dairying has been awakened in this State, as would naturally be supposed, a corresponding interest is being directed to the improvement of our dairy stock; and, although manifestly the first step towards the object aimed at is a more intelligent and liberal system of feeding, coupled with more thoughtful care, still at the same time the interest manifested in breeds is worthy of encouragement. The introduction of Holstein stock into this State is being watched at this time with a deep interest. Coming as it does from a country long celebrated for its dairy products, and having been bred in its native country for generations, for the express purpose of the dairy, the high hope entertained by many that it will prove a valuable acquisition to our stock, either when bred, or crossed upon our best grade stock, are certainly based on good ground. The experience thus far, although limited, of those who are introducing it is quite encouraging, not only with the thoroughbreds, but also with the grades. This stock comes from the luxuriant meadows of the dyked marshes of North Holland. Transferred at once to our short hill pastures, and dependent alone upon the short supply of grass there found, their reputation of course would not be sustained. If expectations are realized on them it will come from abundant feed.

Allen, in his "American Cattle," says, that "for the dairy qualities of the Holsteins must be acknowledged as remarkable." It is reported, made at the Royal Agricultural Academy at Edina, Prussia, of a trial of four different breeds of cows, in which these Ayrshire cows gave an average of 49-100 quarts of milk per day for the year. Twenty-two Holstein cows gave an average of 9-73-100 quarts for the same time. The yield of milk from a given quantity of feed was far greater with the Holstein cows, than with either of the other breeds. Mr. Cheney of Belmont, Mass., has the most celebrated herd of this stock in this country. The milk record of this herd is enormous. Many of our readers probably are familiar with it, as it has been heralded in the length and breadth of the land in agricultural publications. One of the imported cows when six years old, from the 26th of May—ten days after dropping her calf—to the 27th of July, by exact record, gave 4018 pounds and 14 ounces of milk. The largest yield of one day was 76 pounds and five ounces. In ten days she gave an average per day of 74-47-100 lbs. She gave a good flow through the entire year till she dropped another calf.

Gerrit S. Miller, Peterboro, N. Y., contributes to the *Country Gentleman* the three years' milk record of three Holstein cows imported by him in 1869, from which we condense the following: Average yield of milk per cow, per year, 9598 lbs. Dowager averaged per day while in milk 31-6-100 lbs.; Crown Princess 34-32-100 lbs.; Franklin 25-5-100 lbs.; Crown Princess gave in one day 74 lbs., and averaged per day for three months 60-8-100 lbs.; Franklin gave in one day 70 lbs.; Dowager gave 55 lbs. Mr. Miller says his plan has been to feed each cow while in milk six quarts of grain-corn and oats in equal parts ground together—with long hay in spring, and four quarters during the fall and early winter. The summer of 1870 being exceedingly dry he began to feed grain in August. In 1871 they had nothing but pasture from June 5th to Sept. 5th; summer of 1872 nothing but pasture from June 1st to Nov. 1st. Ten to fifteen native cows kept in the stable with the Holstein cows, gave an average yield per year varying but a trifle from 4,000 lbs. per head. A comparison by weight of the food consumed by each kind, resulted in showing that the Holstein produced more milk from a given amount of food than the natives.

These records show that this breed has thus far sustained in this country the reputation they have acquired in their own land.

We are not aware that the milk record of the cows imported by Gen. Tilton of the Military Asylum near this city, has yet been made public. They however bear every appearance of sustaining the enviable reputation of other herds.

A Few Poultry Notes.

A correspondent suggests a method for keeping hens from scratching that is new to us, and seems somewhat impracticable. It is to take two short sticks, making one end sharp and having a small hole in the other. With stout twine tie these sticks to the legs of the hens, so they will drag them behind—which we are assured prevents the hens from scratching.

For our part we shall prefer some laths and a few nails. Hens confined in small pens may be let out for an hour or two every night, and in this time will eat sufficient, grass and gravel to keep them in health, while they will not be liable to do any damage in the garden.

Mr. T. J. McDaniel of Hollis, Cent., enquires what effect air or tarred paper has on the health of hens, and if the effect is injurious. He has recently put up a good hen house, covering the boarding on the North side with tarpaper. Several hens that were sitting were taken sick soon after, combs pale, wings drooping, and the flocks of sand in the comb and feet white; stands 144 hands high, and a little white on each foot.

Editorial Notes.

More About Maine Horses.

For the Maine Farmer.

A Contribution to a History of Maine Horses.

As Mr. J. W. Thompson calls for information in regard to our noted horses, allow me to add a few words about animals through the *Farmers*, a key, perhaps, to further reading and investigation.

Forty-five years ago Lemuel Pullen, a branch of the Pullen family of Winthrop, who bred Fanny Pullen, known in the country as a nice gray stallion said to have been of Messenger blood. He also owned a pony stallion, but both were sold and gave place to the noted Crookneck. This horse is claimed to be a Morgan, and the author of the book of Daniel D. Thompson, but to the latter fact I do not know. In regard to Crookneck's sire, Mr. Pullen said that he was bred by the "original Quicksilver" and he was in the stud from Waterville to Cornville as the result of his knowledge and skill in breeding. He was just the son of a sour leaf all over; head fine, eyes bright; ears short, erect, tips curved inward; neck very high and arched the crest being much higher than the head, and the white hair sweeping along the back. His action was good, and so attractive was that his owner was soon stopped the growth of the tree, and if there were in the stem the tree leaves began to turn yellow. 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Maine Farmer

Augusta, May 31, 1873.

TERMS OF THE MAINE FARMER.
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Collectors' Notices.

Mr. V. D. BARNES will visit Penobscot County in June and July.

Mr. G. S. ATKINS is now canvassing the county of Somerset.

Mr. J. S. SMALL will call upon subscribers in York County during the present month.

Importance of Good Sewerage.

The danger to health and life resulting from defective drainage or sewerage is so great that it cannot be too frequently presented to the public. The danger is most imminent in our large towns and cities especially where a considerable part of the land has been reduced from swamps and marshes, but even farm houses and other isolated homes, so rarely do we find proper drainage and so certain are the deleterious effects of this neglect, that the subject becomes one of great and general importance.

Nature's chemical laboratory is constantly at work, but much more actively at some seasons of the year, than at others and is ever eliminating poisonous substances which, under favorable circumstances, produce disease in a great variety of forms.

Most of our Maine villages and some of our cities are built upon the banks of rivers and smaller streams, because the water power here obtained forms the basis of a permanent business and insures a steady growth. But in the vicinity of most of the spots selected for the settlement, is generally found more or less low and marshy land, which it soon becomes necessary to fill up to furnish building sites for the growing village.

Now earth forms one of the best as well as the cheapest disinfectants that is found in the whole realm of nature, and if these marshy places are all covered over with good clean soil and sand, the poisonous exhalations which are rising from below are absorbed and rendered innocuous. But when this process has gone on for a long time, unless the covering of earth is of great depth, it at length becomes impregnated with poisons, and its absorbing power is exhausted. Then the noxious effluvia which is always generated where there is decomposing vegetable or animal matter rises to the surface brought up by capillary attraction, and lurks unseen and generally unheeded in every dwelling in the vicinity. Good sewerage is the only remedy when this state of things exists. Let them be sunk deep in time the poison will be eliminated from the vegetable matter and its health destroying power will be lost.

The great majority of our citizens, in the whirlpool of business and in the race for wealth, give no heed to the insidious seeds of disease which they are daily and hourly absorbing from the defective condition of the sewerage near their place of business. They take no interest in the statistics of high death rates regarding them as merely idle speculations or facts for the curious. Now this is all selfish and wrong. It is the duty of every man so far to study the principles of sanitary law and hygiene, so to be able to understand the conditions which effect his own health and that of the community in which he lives, and who neglects the study of these, is as deserving of censure as he who neglects to practice upon the lights of knowledge and experience in respect to other things.

The time was not very far back, when a disease, and especially that of an epidemic character, was regarded as a mysterious dispensation of Providence which man was powerless to effect, much less to control. But in the light of science this superstition has shared the fate of many others and has been swept away. It is only necessary that sanitary and hygienic principles should be understood and vigorously enforced, to effect an important improvement in the health and longevity of the American people.

Our country is comparatively new and fresh, and we have never yet suffered from those fearful epidemics which have sometimes ravaged the old world, almost depopulating entire cities and countries. These have generally been regarded as providential visitations, and classed with tempests and earthquakes, but we have no doubt that the real causes were a disregard of sanitary and hygienic laws. Since these laws have been better understood and to a certain extent, put in practice, that species of epidemic usually denominated the "plague," has not made its appearance, while other epidemics have grown more rare and much less destructive of life. At the period of the great plague in London which swept off half the population, there was scarcely any sewerage, while the city had been accumulating filth for centuries.

In the case of isolated dwellings and in small villages, good surface drainage will answer every purpose, but in cities of five thousand inhabitants, nothing short of a good system of sewerage will insure protection from poisonous exhalations, arising from water waste and the accumulations of excremental material upon the surface.

The necessity for sewerage increases with the age and growth of a city. Those cities which spring up rapidly, have immunity from danger for a time. But as fifth accumulates the next, and so on, nothing short of a good system of sewerage can be rapidly carried beyond the city limits becomes imperative.

This is then the whole surface of the earth becomes impregnated with poison, the water in wells becomes impure and unfit for use, and diseases of a malignant type are liable to prevail. During the spring months when the surface of the ground is saturated with water from the spring rains and the melting of the snow, this poison is diluted and the minimal exhalations are less dangerous, and wet seasons are healthier than dry. In dry seasons, in cities where the sewerage is defective and where sanitary regulations have not been properly established and enforced, from the first of August and through the autumnal months, we may expect that typhoid fevers and other malignant diseases will prevail.

With every possible precaution we may not expect complete immunity from sickness, but we do sincerely believe that a disease of a malignant type, and these are more to be dreaded than any other, may be greatly reduced if not entirely prevented, by a proper observance of sanitary law. This includes drainage where drainage will answer the purpose, sewerage where surface drainage is insufficient, proper police regulations with respect to cleanliness &c. Hygiene which also relates to the prevention, not the cause of disease, should go hand in hand with sanitary regulations and with rigid observance of these two principles, we might literally "throw physic to the dogs" and the occupation of three fourths of the physicians would be gone.

We understand that the Maine Central Railroad Company have purchased the toll bridge across the Kennebec river at Fairfield, for \$10,000 and have presented it to the town with the condition that it be kept in repair, as a free bridge. The right way through the land of Mr. Barker was also purchased by the Company for \$1,000, a price considerably above the actual value of the land.

CITY GOALS. Meeting of Seth Williams Post this (Thursday) evening. It is desirable that every member should be present.—Lucius Libby, a vagrant, has been taken to the Insane Hospital.—Sunday services in this city are hereafter to begin at 10:30 A. M.—J. W. Berry of Gardner, ably addressed the Augusta Reform Club Saturday evening.—The Starbird concert drew a thin house, but those who were highly pleased and edified.—Messrs. O. C. Whipple & Co., have dissolved and sold their dry goods establishment to Messrs. W. L. Brigham and Fred H. Sawyer.—Several of the Augusta clergymen made allusion to Memorial Day last Sunday.—Hon. J. J. Evelyn has sailed for Europe where he will spend a month in sight-seeing in the Old World.—The Lincoln Concert did not put in an appearance on account of the illness of the principal.—J. P. Wyman, Esq., of this city, with characteristic liberality has donated two fine black walnut doors of the value of \$200, to the Maine General Hospital Fair. Mr. Wyman knows where to put his money where it will do good.—Mr. Homann of the FARMERS and J. H. Hartford are expected to return from their Western trip next Saturday.—Ship Columbus arrived Saturday with plaster for Col. DeWitt.—Business will be suspended Friday afternoon, in consequence of Memorial services at Forest Grove Cemetery.—J. L. Stoddard, Esq., has been appointed Deputy in the Revenue Office of this District.—The Law Court is now in session at the Court House. Judges present: Appleton, C. J., and Cutting, Danforth, Dickinson, Virgin and Peters.—The earth is passing on her most beautiful garments.—The cherry trees are in blossom around Kent's Hill—Work on the railroad extension is going forward rapidly. The trestle work on the "Island" road past the colleges at Waterville is nearly up.—The foundations of the classical school building at Hallowell are nearly completed.—Hoath & Crosby have 2,500,000 feet of lumber in the boom at Benton.—A carriage belonging to Mr. Stilphen of Gardner, was overturned on Sunday last. Mrs. Stilphen was somewhat bruised—Subscriptions to the new Fair Ground Association of Gardiner amounts to \$3,000.—It is intended to make the amount \$4,000.—Friday morning an engine went off the track at Waterville at the same spot where the Pullman train went off the night before. No great damage was done.—Dr. Torrey is much improved in health. He is still at Kent's Hill.—Last Saturday in Gardner, a lady swallowed a piece of beef that lodged in her throat. Several doctors were called and it was not until Wednesday morning that it was forced down into the stomach. Her friends had given up hope.—The new depot at Waterville is one of the best on the line of the Maine Central Railroad.—A few days since, dogs killed twelve and wounded seventeen valuable Merino sheep, belonging to A. F. Ricker of Waterville. The dogs were valued at \$2000. Other parties also suffered in the same way.—On Friday last as Mr. John Alexander of North Bellowsford, was at work with another person, in his mill sawing blocks from which to manufacture Excelsior, one was caught by the circular saw, and thrown with great force, striking Mr. Alexander upon the back part of the head.—The soldiers grave in the several cemeteries of Augusta will be decorated by the members of the Post Thursday forenoon. For this purpose the Post will be divided into detachments which will leave G. A. Hall at nine o'clock and proceed to perform the duties assigned them. Memorial services are to be held in Mount Pleasant Cemetery in the afternoon. The procession composed of the several military and civic bodies of the city, city government, and citizens generally will form on Water street and march by the most direct route to the cemetery.

The day will be appropriately observed in the cities and all the large towns in Maine. In this city the arrangements have been nearly perfected, and it is hoped that everything will pass off creditably and in proper order. The labor of perfecting details has been performed by Post Seth Williams G. A. R.—A body which has been organized during the past year.

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The Maine Farmer: An Agricultural and Family Newspaper.

Poetry.

SPRING-TIME.

(Translated from the German.)
Oh spring-time sweet!
Over the hills come thy lovely feet;
The sun is smiling at the way;
She clothes herself in green robe,
And the world is new; the cold
Is driving away from the Warm, fresh mould.

Oh spring-time sweet!

The whole earth mirthfully comes to greet;

Her first spring flower, and the song of the bird;

Our heart, after long winter sleep,

Thou art like dreams through heart and mind.

Oh spring-time sweet!

How the old man in the new in sky soft house meet!

The brightness and beauty that could not last—

Their fair ghosts rise with the ending of snow—

The spring-time sweet, the spring-time ago.

Oh spring-time sweet!

How the cows dear and fair and complete!

More sweet words nor music could swell;

And their art not the same as the springs of yore

For all their love and the joy and the love of the past.

—Old age.

With all hope thy coming I greet;

For all that in winter thy bright can last.

Death, though it bring the frost,

Even so shall them bring me at last, at last,

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